

Checklist

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beaver | <input type="checkbox"/> Beaver lodge |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beaver dam | <input type="checkbox"/> Muskrat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bird nest | <input type="checkbox"/> Canada goose |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great blue heron | <input type="checkbox"/> Red-winged blackbird |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tree swallow | <input type="checkbox"/> Wood duck |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mallard | <input type="checkbox"/> Fish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Painted turtle | <input type="checkbox"/> Snapping turtle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dragonfly | <input type="checkbox"/> Cattail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yellow iris | <input type="checkbox"/> Water lily |

How to Quest

Quest clues and maps—created by teachers, volunteers, and/or park staff—will help you discover the natural and cultural gems of the Ohio & Erie Canalway. At the end of each quest is a hidden treasure box. Sign your name in the logbook, stamp this page, and return the box to its hiding place.

STAMP HERE

The questing season runs from April 15 through November 15.

Notice a problem or have suggestions for improving this quest? Contact Arrye Rosser at 440-546-5992 or arrye_rosser@nps.gov.

About This Program

I'm Arrye Rosser, interpretive and education specialist at Cuyahoga Valley National Park. I'd like to thank everyone who helped fulfill my dream of bringing questing to Ohio. This project was made possible by the generous support of a 2010 Parks as Classrooms grant from the National Park Service and is a partnership between many organizations.

So far, more than 70 teachers, volunteers, and park staff have been involved in writing and field testing our initial series of Canalway Quests. Our plan is to create many more in the years ahead. If you would like to volunteer, contact me at 440-546-5992 or arrye_rosser@nps.gov.

Special thanks to Emily Bryant and Steven Glazer.

The Ohio & Erie Canalway celebrates the rails, trails, landscapes, towns, and sites that grew up along the first 110 miles of the canal that helped Ohio and our nation grow.

For more information and to get copies of other quests, visit www.nps.gov/cuva and search for keyword "questing."



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This quest was written by volunteers Susan Hale and Robert Nicholas.



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Canalway Quest

Beaver Marsh Quest

Look for an abundance of wildlife at the Beaver Marsh on this easy, one-mile walk.



Planning Ahead

This treasure hunt takes 60 minutes or less, depending on how long you linger. Surfaces are flat. This quest is wheelchair accessible, but seated visitors may need assistance reaching the quest box. You will need a pen or pencil to fill out the nature checklist and sign the logbook. Some people prefer using their own signature stamp and ink pad or marker. Binoculars, insect repellent, and walking shoes are recommended. If you want to see beavers, they are most active in the evening and early morning.

Getting There

Start in the parking lot at Ira Trailhead, 3801 Riverview Road, north of Ira Road, Peninsula, Ohio 44264.

Clues

Welcome to Cuyahoga Valley National Park!
Grab a pen to write with before you embark.

On the back of these Beaver Marsh questing clues
Is a nature checklist that you can use.

Beaver Marsh is rich in biodiversity.
Check off the many plants and animals you see.

At the marsh, you'll learn the beavers' tale.
Move forward now from kiosk to trail.

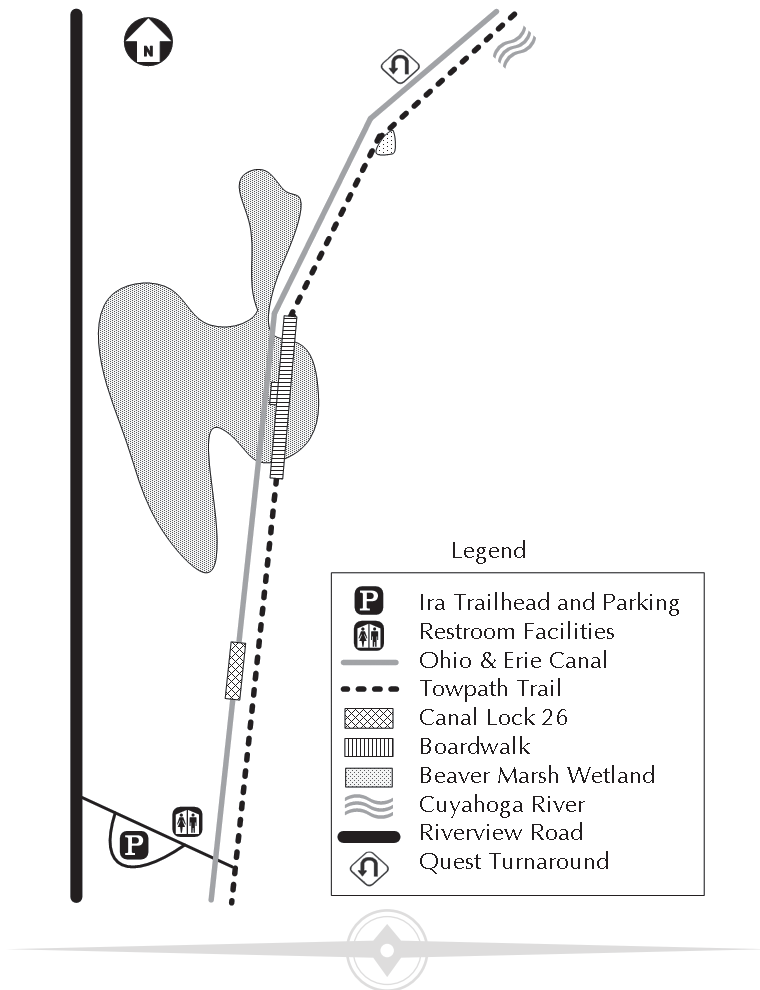
Turn to the left—you are now heading north.
Off to the beaver lodge and dams, go forth!

Others are in motion, so use caution as you hike.
Be alert for walkers, runners, and passing bikes.

Keep your eyes and ears open along the way.
There is much wildlife here, including birds of prey.

Pause at Lock 26—"Pancake," it was called—
Where canal boats once passed, and goods they hauled.

The canal ran south and north, moving goods to ply,
Now home to muskrat, beaver, and butterfly.



As you trek northward, count the spruce trees,
No further than the fifteenth on the left, if you please.

Turn to face the canal, with its water so serene—
Here the evidence of beaver can be seen.

That gouge in the tree—did beaver's teeth gnaw,
Cutting through the wood like an efficient saw?

They will use the wood to build their lodge, of course,
But bark is also part of their natural food source.

Trek onward to the boardwalk, enjoying the view.
Are you checking off the wildlife? Good for you!

Be sure to look up, down, and all around.
Check the fallen logs, where painted turtles abound.

Near the boardwalk's edge, on the right, a dam you'll see:
The work of the beaver—busy as a bee.

Up from the bottom they brought the mud,
Building a system of dams, the land to flood.

Turn left to the benches, watching the water below.
Glimpse waterfowl, fish, and snapping turtles so slow.

Go to the observation deck's far wall for a minute
And read the beaver's tale on the wayside exhibit.

Look left across the water at the house made of sticks.
This lodge is where beavers raise their kits.

Though not always in view, beavers are near,
But it may take several visits before you spy one here.

Beavers get into their lodges from below,
So you won't see the entrances—they're underwater, you know.

Walk on, but pause before the boardwalk ends.
Down in the mud, find footprints from animal friends.

Again look to the left and to the right—
More beaver dams are now in sight.

Hike past the milepost marked 28
Designating canal distance, as history relates.

Follow the canal on your left 'til you see
Another beaver dam made so craftily.

Turn around here, where the canal is nearly dry.
Backtrack for our hidden box, will you give it a try?

It's 60-odd steps into the gravel pullout to rest,
At gravel's edge is our box and the end of your quest.

Be discreet as you look, and stay sharp-eyed.
The box hides in the back of a log lying on its side.

Before you head back on your merry way,
Stamp the logbook to record your visit today.

Put the quest box back where it was found,
For other questers to find when they come around.

We hope you have enjoyed this nature-filled quest.
On your way back to Ira, make your checklist the best!

